



DOMINGUEZ-ESCALANTE NATIONAL CONSERVATION AREA PROPOSED RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN & FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT



❖ TRAVEL MANAGEMENT ❖

What is Travel Management?

The Dominguez-Escalante National Conservation Area (D-E NCA) contains approximately 720 miles of roads and trails on public land. This number includes 83 miles of county maintained roads, which remain open under the Proposed Plan. “Travel management” is the term used to describe BLM’s management of travel systems, which include roads and trails that provide access to and across public lands for a variety of uses and trail-based recreational opportunities.

The BLM designates travel areas and routes to support the desired conditions for each of the resources and resource uses described in the Proposed Resource Management Plan (RMP). Proposed travel management decisions are designed to ensure the BLM meets its legislative mandate to conserve and protect the NCA’s geological, cultural, archeological, paleontological, natural, scientific, recreational, wilderness, wildlife, riparian, historical, educational, scenic, and water resources.

What types of decisions about travel management are proposed in the Proposed-E NCA RMP?

Two types of travel management decisions are proposed in the D-E NCA Proposed RMP: area decisions and route designations.

There are three different area decisions in the planning area. The first is the Dominguez Canyon Wilderness, which is closed to motorized and mechanized travel in accordance with the 1964 Wilderness Act. The second area decision is all public lands outside of the wilderness in the NCA, which are limited to designated routes for motorized and mechanized travel. This means motorized and mechanized travel is only allowed on individual routes that are designated open for these types of uses. The third area decision is seasonal closures, which are proposed in the following areas in order to protect big game winter concentration areas.

- Gibbler Gulch
- Wagon Park
- Sowbelly
- Upper Sawmill Mesa
- Dry Mesa

Seasonal closures in these areas exclude county maintained roads and administrative use. Farmer’s Canyon route would remain open year-round to provide a motorized “loop” opportunity until a new route can be constructed outside the big-game winter concentration area. BLM added this exception in response to public comments, in order to maintain a high quality recreation experience. The public may protest area decisions during the 30-day protest

period after the release of the Proposed RMP. For more information see the protests and appeals fact sheet.

Route designations determine which individual routes (within an area that is limited to travel on designated routes only) are open to different types of travel. Route designations are expected to change as needed throughout the life of the RMP to support varying resource objectives. Route designations are implementation actions so they are not protestable during the 30 day protest period, but the public may appeal these decisions during the 30 day appeal period after the BLM signs the Record of Decision. See the protests and appeals fact sheet for more details.

The Proposed Plan reflects changes BLM made in response to public comments on the Draft RMP. The table below compares the number of miles of route open to each type of use under Alternative E (the Preferred Alternative) in the Draft RMP, to the Proposed Plan.

	County Maintained roads on BLM Public Lands	Open to All Modes of Travel	Administrative Use only	ATV, Motorcycle Bicycle, Horse and Foot	Motorcycle, Bicycle, Horse, and Foot	Bicycle, Horse, and Foot	Horse and Foot	Non-Maintained wilderness routes	Closed Routes	Routes Open for Some Form of Public Use
Alt. E	83	184	56	85	4	7	94	0	230	457
Proposed Plan Alt.	83	211	47	102	11	12	112	20	144	551

Where in the PRMP/FEIS should I look if I’m interested in Travel Management?

For more information on Transportation and Travel Management please see line 528 of the alternatives matrix in Chapter 2, Volume 1 of the Proposed RMP. Appendix N contains a complete comprehensive travel and transportation management plan. Maps of area designations and route designations may be found in Appendix R. The BLM considered all substantive comments to the travel system during the comment period on the Draft RMP in 2013. Responses to these comments and interactive travel maps may be found online at <http://1.usa.gov/1qKkMVi>.